

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 INR-07 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 /035 W

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O 040840Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4580

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 13672

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, OTRA, KE, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF COMIDEASTFOR TO NAIROBI

REF: STATE 295252

1. VISIT TO KENYA BY COMIDEASTFOR, ADM. CROWE, TO COINCIDE WITH DEC 12 INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS AND USMC FLY-BY, WOULD POSE PROBLEM FOR US IF HE INSISTED ON BEING PRESENT FOR FLY-BY IN NAIROBI. HIS PRESENCE AMONG GUESTS OF HONOR (EITHER IN UNIFORM OR CIVILIAN CLOTHING) WOULD IMPLY GREATER MILITARY SUPPORT FOR KENYA THAN IS THE CASE OR INTENDED BY FLY-BY; IT WOULD TOUCH OFF WILDEST POSSIBLE SPECULATION IN DIPLOMATIC CORPS ASSEMBLED FOR OCCASION.

2. ON OTHER HAND, IF COMIDEASTFOR WOULD AGREE TO REMAIN IN MOMBASA FOR PERIOD OF USS GUAM VISIT (PAYING USUAL PROTOCOL CALLS IN THE PORT), THIS WOULD CAUSE SCARCELY A RIPPLE OF ATTENTION. RECENT BRITISH FLEET VISIT HAD AN ADMIRAL ABOARD. ADM. CROWE COULD THEN COME UP TO NAIROBI FOR LOW-KEY CALLS ON GOK OFFICIALS DEC. 14 (FIRST WORKING DAY AFTER HOLIDAY), WHICH WOULD ALSO HAVE ADVANTAGE OF ENABLING EMBASSY TO DEVOTE FULL ATTENTION TO HIM, WHICH WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE DURING FLY-BY OPERATION. AMBASSADOR PLANS VISIT TO GUAM FOR CALLS AND LUNCH SATURDAY, 11 DEC.

3. UPON RECEIPT FORMAL CLEARANCE REQUEST, EMBASSY PLANS TO MAKE THESE POINTS AND WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT. GRATEFUL
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FOR ADVANCE NOTICE SUPPLIED REFTTEL.

MARSHALL

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